

CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis containing an interleukin-6 antagonist as an effective component.

5        2. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis according to claim 1, characterized in that said interleukin-6 antagonist suppresses abnormal growth of synovial cells occurring with chronic rheumatoid arthritis.

10       3. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis according to claim 1, characterized in that said interleukin-6 antagonist is an antibody against interleukin-6.

15       4. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis according to claim 2, characterized in that said interleukin-6 is human interleukin-6.

20       5. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis according to claim 1, characterized in that said interleukin-6 antagonist is an antibody against interleukin-6 receptor.

25       6. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of chronic rheumatoid arthritis according to claim 2, characterized in that said interleukin-6 receptor is human interleukin-6 receptor.

7. A synovial cell growth inhibitor containing an interleukin-6 antagonist as an effective component.

30       8. A synovial cell growth inhibitor according to claim 7, characterized in that said interleukin-6 antagonist is interleukin-6 antibody or interleukin-6 receptor antibody.